

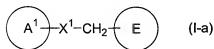
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula (I-a), or a salt or a hydrate thereof:



wherein A<sup>1</sup> represents a 3-pyridyl group;

X<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula -C(=Y<sup>1</sup>)-NH-, wherein Y<sup>1</sup> represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

E represents a thienyl group;

with the proviso that A<sup>1</sup> optionally has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the following substituent groups a-1 and a-2, and that E has 1 or 2 substituents selected from the substituent groups ~~a-1 and a-2;~~ a-1' and a-2';

<substituent group a-1>

substituent group a-1 represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a mercapto group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl

group, a ~~5- to 10-membered heterocyclic group~~, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylidene C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a ~~5- to 10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group~~, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyloxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkoxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a ~~5- to 10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group~~, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylthio group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylthio group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylthio group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> arylthio group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a ~~5- to 10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group~~, a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylamino group, a mono-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylamino group, a mono-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group, a mono-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a ~~mono-5- to 10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group~~, a di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a ~~N-5- to 10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group~~, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylcarbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a group represented by the formula -C(=N-R<sup>a1</sup>)R<sup>a2</sup> (wherein R<sup>a1</sup> represents a hydroxyl group or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group; R<sup>a2</sup> represents a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group), and a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryloxy C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group ~~and a 5- to 10-membered heterocycle oxy C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group~~;

<substituent group a-2>

substituent group a-2 represents the group consisting of: a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, a ~~5- to 10-membered~~

~~heterocyclic group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a 5- to 10-~~  
~~membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub>~~  
~~alkynyloxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkoxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub>~~  
~~alkoxy group, a 5- to 10- membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a C<sub>2-6</sub>~~  
~~alkenylthio group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylthio group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylthio group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> arylthio group, a~~  
~~C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a 5- to 10- membered~~  
~~heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylamino~~  
~~group, a mono-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylamino group, a mono-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub>~~  
~~arylamino group, a mono-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub>~~  
~~alkylamino group, a mono- 5- to 10- membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a di-C<sub>1-6</sub>~~  
~~alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub>~~  
~~alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub>~~  
~~alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub>~~  
~~alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N- 5- to 10- membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub>~~  
~~alkylamino group; and a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryloxy-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group and a 5- to 10- membered heterocycle oxy~~  
~~C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;~~

with the proviso that each group described in the substituent group a-2 has 1 to 3  
substituents selected from the following substituent group b;

<substituent group b>

substituent group b represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group,  
a mercapto group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, a carbamoyl group, a nitro  
group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, a 5- to 10- membered

heterocyclic group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryloxy group, a 5- to 10-membered heterocycle  
oxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylcarbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a  
trifluoromethyl group, a trifluoromethoxy group, a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a di-C<sub>1-6</sub>  
alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group which optionally has one amino group or  
aminosulfonyl group and a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group which optionally has  
one amino group;

<substituent group a-1'>

substituent group a-1' represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl  
group, a mercapto group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, a carbamoyl group, a  
C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl  
group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylidene C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub>  
alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyloxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub>  
cycloalkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryloxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub>  
alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylthio group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylthio group, a C<sub>3-8</sub>  
cycloalkylthio group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> arylthio group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl  
C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylamino group, a mono-  
C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylamino group, a mono-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group, a  
mono-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a di-C<sub>1-6</sub>  
alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub>  
alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub>  
alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub>  
alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylcarbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub>

alkylsulfonyl group, a group represented by the formula  $-C(=N-R^{a1})R^{a2}$  (wherein  $R^{a1}$  represents a hydroxyl group or a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group;  $R^{a2}$  represents a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group), and a  $C_{6-10}$  aryloxy  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group;

<substituent group a-2'>

substituent group a-2' represents the group consisting of: a  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{2-6}$  alkenyl group, a  $C_{2-6}$  alkynyl group, a  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl group, a  $C_{6-10}$  aryl group, a  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{6-10}$  aryl  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group, a  $C_{2-6}$  alkenyloxy group, a  $C_{2-6}$  alkynyloxy group, a  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkoxy group, a  $C_{6-10}$  aryloxy group, a  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group, a  $C_{6-10}$  aryl  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkylthio group, a  $C_{2-6}$  alkenylthio group, a  $C_{2-6}$  alkynylthio group, a  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkylthio group, a  $C_{6-10}$  arylthio group, a  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl  $C_{1-6}$  alkylthio group, a  $C_{6-10}$  aryl  $C_{1-6}$  alkylthio group, a mono- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a mono- $C_{2-6}$  alkenylamino group, a mono- $C_{2-6}$  alkynylamino group, a mono- $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkylamino group, a mono- $C_{6-10}$  arylamino group, a mono- $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl  $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a mono- $C_{6-10}$  aryl  $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a di- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a N- $C_{2-6}$  alkenyl-N- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a N- $C_{2-6}$  alkynyl-N- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a N- $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl-N- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a N- $C_{6-10}$  aryl-N- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a N- $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl-N- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a N- $C_{6-10}$  aryl  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl-N- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, and a  $C_{6-10}$  aryloxy- $C_{1-6}$  alkyl group;

with the proviso that each group described in the substituent group a-2' has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the following substituent group b;

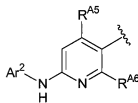
<substituent group b>

substituent group b represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a mercapto group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, a carbamoyl group, a nitro

group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryloxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylcarbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a trifluoromethoxy group, a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group which optionally has one amino group or aminosulfonyl group and a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group which optionally has one amino group;

with the proviso that the following is excluded:

a compound in which A<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula:



wherein R<sup>A5</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group or a trifluoromethyl group; R<sup>A6</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a trifluoromethyl group; Ar<sup>2</sup> represents a phenyl group which optionally has a substituent; and X<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula -C(=O)-NH-.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The compound according to Claim 3, or the salt thereof, wherein A<sup>1</sup> represents a 3-pyridyl group, with the proviso that A<sup>1</sup> optionally has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the substituent group a-1 defined above.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to Claim 3, or the salt thereof, wherein A<sup>1</sup> represents a 3-pyridyl group, with the proviso that A<sup>1</sup> optionally has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the following substituent groups c-1 and c-2;

<substituent group c-1>

substituent group c-1 represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, an amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, ~~a 5-to-10-membered heterocyclic group~~, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, ~~a 5-to-10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group~~, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyloxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, ~~a 5-to-10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group~~, a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylamino group, a mono-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylamino group, a mono-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group, a mono-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, ~~a mono-5-to-10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group~~, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylcarbonyl group and a group represented by the formula -C(=N-OH)R<sup>a2</sup>, wherein R<sup>a2</sup> has the same meaning as defined above;

<substituent group c-2>

substituent group c-2 represents the group consisting of: a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, ~~a 5-to-10-membered heterocyclic group~~, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, ~~a 5-to-10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group~~, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyloxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, ~~a 5-to-10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group~~, a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>2-6</sub>

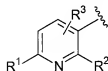
alkenylamino group, a mono-C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylamino group, a mono-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group, a mono-C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, and a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group ~~and a mono 5 to 10 membered heterocyclic C<sub>4-6</sub> alkylamino group;~~

with the proviso that each group described in substituent group c-2 has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the following substituent group d;

<substituent group d>

substituent group d represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group that optionally having one amino group or aminosulfonyl group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group optionally having one amino group, a cyano group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, ~~a 5 to 10 membered heterocyclic group~~ and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group.

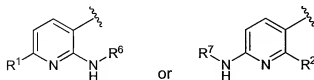
6. **(Previously Presented)** The compound according to Claim 5, or the salt thereof, wherein A<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are the same as or different from each other and represent a substituent selected from the substituent groups c-1 and c-2 defined above.



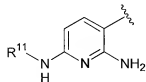
7. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to Claim 5, or the salt thereof,  
wherein A<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are the same as or different from each other and represent a substituent selected from the substituent groups c-1 and c-2 defined above; and

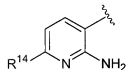
R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are the same or different from each other and represent a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group or a group represented by the formula -CHR<sup>8</sup>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n1</sub>-R<sup>9</sup>, wherein R<sup>8</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a carboxyl group or a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group; R<sup>9</sup> represents a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a furyl group, a thienyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyridyl group, a triazolyl group, a tetrahydrofuryl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group, a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a phenyl group optionally having 1 to 3 substituents selected from the substituent group d defined above, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group optionally having one amino group or an N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group optionally having one amino group; and n1 represents an integer from 0 to 3.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The compound according to Claim 3, or the salt thereof,  
wherein A<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula:



wherein  $\text{R}^{11}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a group represented by the formula  $-\text{CHR}^{12}-$   
 $(\text{CH}_2)_{n2}-\text{R}^{13}$ , wherein  $\text{R}^{12}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a carboxyl group;  $\text{R}^{13}$  represents a  
carboxyl group or a phenyl group optionally having 1 to 3 substituents selected from the  
substituent group d defined above; and  $n2$  represents an integer from 0 to 3.

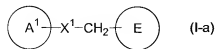
9. **(Previously Presented)** The compound according to Claim 3, or the salt thereof,  
wherein  $\text{A}^1$  represents a group represented by the formula:



wherein  $\text{R}^{14}$  represents a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group having one  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkoxy group.

10-17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Currently Amended)** A compound represented by the formula (I-a), or a salt  
thereof:



wherein  $\text{A}^1$  represents a 3-pyridyl group, wherein optionally has 1 to 3 substituents  
selected from the following substituent groups  $\text{c}^1-1$  and  $\text{c}^2-2$ ;

<substituent group c'-1>

substituent group c'-1 represents the group consisting of: an amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group and a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group; and

<substituent group c'-2>

substituent group c'-2 represents the group consisting of: a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group and a mono-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group;

with the proviso that each group described in substituent group c'-2 has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the following substituent group d';

<substituent group d'>

substituent group d' represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group;

X<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula -C(=Y<sup>1</sup>)-NH-;

Y<sup>1</sup> represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom;

wherein E represents a thienyl group, wherein E has 1 or 2 substituents selected from the following substituent groups e-1 and e-2;

<substituent group e-1>

substituent group e-1 represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylidene C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, 5- to 10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyloxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryloxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> arylthio group, a C<sub>6-</sub>

~~10~~ aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, and a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryloxy C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl ~~group and a 5- to 10-membered heterocycle oxy C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl~~ group;

<substituent group e-2>

substituent group e-2 represents the group consisting of: a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, ~~a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group~~, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyloxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryloxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, ~~5- to 10-membered heterocycle C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group~~, a C<sub>6-10</sub> arylthio group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylthio group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a N-C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl-N-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, and a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryloxy C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl ~~group and a 5- to 10-membered heterocycle oxy C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl~~ group;

with the proviso that each group described in substituent group e-2 has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the following substituent group f;

<substituent group f>

substituent group f represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, an amino group, a nitro group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryloxy group, ~~a 5- to 10-membered heterocycle oxy group~~, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylcarbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxycarbonyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsulfonyl group, a mono-C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group, a trifluoromethyl group, a trifluoromethoxy group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The compound according to Claim 18, or the salt thereof, wherein X<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula -C(=O)-NH-

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The compound according to Claim 18, or the salt thereof, wherein E represents a thienyl group, wherein E has one substituent selected from the following substituent groups g-1 and g-2;

<substituent group g-1>

substituent group g-1 represents the group consisting of: a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a phenyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, ~~a furyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a thienyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a benzofuryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a benzothienyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,~~ a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a phenoxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a phenyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, ~~a furyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a thienyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a pyridyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group,~~ and a phenoxy C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group ~~and a pyridyloxy C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;~~

<substituent group g-2>

substituent group g-2 represents the group consisting of: a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a phenyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, ~~a furyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a thienyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a benzofuryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a benzothienyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group,~~ a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a phenoxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub>

cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a phenyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, ~~a furyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a thienyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a pyridyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, and a phenoxy C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group and a pyridyloxy C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;~~

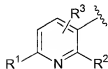
with the proviso that each group described in substituent group g-2 has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the following substituent group h;

<substituent group h>

substituent group h represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group and a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The compound according to Claim 23, or the salt thereof, wherein E represents a 2-thienyl group, wherein E has one substituent selected from the substituent groups g-1 and g-2 defined above.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to Claim 23, or the salt thereof, wherein X<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula -C(=O)-NH-, and A<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are the same as or different from each other and represent a substituent selected from the following substituent groups ~~e-1 and e-2; c'-1 and c'-2;~~

with the proviso that each group described in substituent group c'-2 has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the substituent group d';

<substituent group e-1>

substituent group e-1 represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, an amino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, a 5-to-10 membered heterocyclic group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a 5-to-10 membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyloxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a 5-to-10 membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a mono C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylamino group, a mono C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylamino group, a mono C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylamino group, a mono C<sub>6-10</sub> arylamino group, a mono C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono 5-to-10 membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylcarbonyl group and a group represented by the formula C(=N-OH)R<sup>a2</sup> (wherein R<sup>a2</sup> has the same meaning as defined above);

——<substituent group e-2>

substituent group e-2 represents the group consisting of: a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyl group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl group, a 5-to-10 membered heterocyclic group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a 5-to-10 membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenyloxy group, a C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynyloxy group, a C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, C<sub>6-10</sub> aryl C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a 5-to-10 membered heterocyclic C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group, a mono C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a mono C<sub>2-6</sub> alkenylamino group, a mono C<sub>2-6</sub> alkynylamino group, a mono C<sub>3-8</sub> cycloalkylamino group, a

mono- $C_{6-10}$ -arylamino group, a mono- $C_{3-8}$ -cycloalkyl- $C_{1-6}$ -alkylamino group, a mono- $C_{6-10}$ -aryl- $C_{1-6}$ -alkylamino group and a mono-5-to-10-membered heterocyclic- $C_{1-6}$ -alkylamino group;

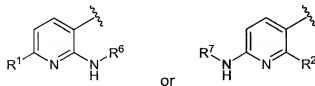
—— with the proviso that each group described in substituent group c-2 has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the following substituent group d;

—— <substituent group d>

substituent group d represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, a carbamoyl group, a  $C_{1-6}$ -alkoxy group, a mono- $C_{1-6}$ -alkylamino group, a di- $C_{1-6}$ -alkylamino group, a mono- $C_{6-10}$ -arylamino group that optionally has one amino group or aminosulfonyl group, a N- $C_{6-10}$ -aryl- $C_{1-6}$ -alkyl-N- $C_{1-6}$ -alkylamino group which optionally has one amino group, a cyano group, a  $C_{6-10}$ -aryl group, a 5-to-10-membered heterocyclic group and a  $C_{1-6}$ -alkoxycarbonyl group, and

E represents a 2-thienyl group, wherein E has one substituent selected from the substituent group g-1 or g-2 defined above.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to Claim 25, or the salt thereof, wherein  $A^1$  represents a group represented by the formula:



wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  have the same meanings as defined above; and

$R^6$  and  $R^7$  are the same or different from each other and represent a hydrogen atom, or a  $C_{1-6}$ -alkyl group, a  $C_{3-8}$ -cycloalkyl group or a group represented by the formula  $-CHR^8-(CH_2)_{n1}-$



$R^9$ , wherein  $R^8$  represents a hydrogen atom, a carboxyl group or a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy carbonyl group;  $R^9$  represents a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, a carbamoyl group, a  $C_{3-8}$  cycloalkyl group, a furyl group, a thienyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyridyl group, a triazolyl group, a tetrahydrofuryl group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy carbonyl group, a mono- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a di- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a phenyl group which optionally has 1 to 3 substituents selected from the following substituent group d defined, a mono- $C_{6-10}$  arylamino group which optionally has one amino group or an N- $C_{6-10}$  aryl- $C_{1-6}$  alkyl-N- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group which optionally has one amino group; and n1 represents an integer from 0 to 2; d' below;

<substituent group d>

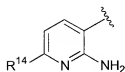
substituent group d represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, an amino group, a carbamoyl group, a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group, a mono- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a di- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group, a mono- $C_{6-10}$  arylamino group that optionally having one amino group or aminosulfonyl group, a N- $C_{6-10}$  aryl- $C_{1-6}$  alkyl-N- $C_{1-6}$  alkylamino group optionally having one amino group, a cyano group, a  $C_{6-10}$  aryl group, a 5 to 10-membered heterocyclic group and a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy carbonyl group.

<substituent group d'>

substituent group d' represents the group consisting of: a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group and a  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy group.

27. (Canceled)

28. **(Previously Presented)** The compound according to Claim 25, or the salt thereof, wherein A<sup>1</sup> represents a group represented by the formula:



R<sup>14</sup> represents a C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group having one C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy group.

29-35. **(Canceled)**

36. **(Previously Presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to Claim 3, or the salt thereof; and  
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

37. **(Canceled)**

38. **(Withdrawn)** A method for prevention or treatment of fungal infection comprising administering a pharmacologically effective amount of the compound according to Claim 3, or the salt thereof.

39-40. **(Canceled)**

41. **(Previously Presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound according to Claim 18, or the salt thereof; and  
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.